

failing of our constitutional duties and certainly a failing to the American people. Vote for the Rangel-DeLauro bill, and vote to eliminate the bad comp bill that will destroy working families all over America.

Just over 1 week ago, the President signed a new law that provides tax cuts of \$93,500 to the 200,000 taxpayers making over \$1 million, while 53 percent of all taxpayers would get less than \$100 under the law.

The Republicans chose not to provide or to increase the child tax credit to working families making between \$10,500 to \$26,625 per year, in order to make room for a dividend tax cut.

Republicans deliberately chose to leave these children and their families behind.

Republicans also deliberately chose to drop a provision added by Senator LINCOLN that would help nearly 12 million children and their families to get the child tax credit—8 million of whom would get no child tax credit at all under the new law.

This provision would have helped low income families with children who make that are working hard to make ends meet.

On May 29, 2003 White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said, "Everybody was aware in the conference of what was in, and what was out. So that was very well-known to all the conferees, including to the White House. Does tax relief go to the people who pay income taxes and forgive their income taxes, or does it go above and beyond the forgiving of all income taxes, and you actually get a check from the government? This [GOP tax conference agreement] certainly does deliver tax relief to the people who pay income taxes." (May 29, 2003)

Today, Majority Leader TOM DELAY responded that the House would not move stand-alone legislation on this issue. He said, "There's a lot of other things that are more important than that. To me it's a little difficult to give tax relief to people who don't pay income taxes."

First Republicans refused to give workers the same pension rights that corporate CEOs have.

Then they pushed through a \$350 billion tax cut, which fails to increase the child tax credit for working families making \$10,000 to \$26,625 a year.

Now, the Republicans are working to take away overtime pay with H.R. 1119 the so-called Comp Time bill and describing it as a "family-friendly" idea.

In reality, this is the Republican's concerted, long-term attack on America's working families that must be stopped.

SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Democrats are offering a package to help hard working Americans and create jobs.

Democrats are taking the first step (H.R. 2286) to begin to repair the damage from this reckless and irresponsible tax package.

The Rangel-Davis-DeLauro bill will provide greater tax relief to the families of 19 million children who make the minimum wage that are struggling to make ends meet.

In addition to restoring the child tax credit provision that Republicans dropped in the middle of the night, the Rangel bill would make the child tax credit available to 1.7 million more families by providing that those earning \$7,500 or more could get the credit.

Under current law, the tax credit is limited to those who make over \$10,500.

The Range package will benefit 19 million children in America; over 2 million children in Texas alone.

Furthermore, the Rangel bill would accelerate marriage penalty relief for families that receive the Earned Income Tax Credit. And it is fully paid for—the bills calls for no deficit spending.

DEMOCRATS CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

The Democratic package would make sure that our men and women in the military are not denied tax relief just because they are deployed in Iraq.

Specifically, the bill would count combat pay for purposes of the Child Tax Credit.

Republicans enacted a \$350 billion tax bill, and yet they failed to make sure that our men and women in combat are able to take full advantage of the child tax credit.

The Democratic Plan will also create jobs for the soldiers who are returning home, their loved ones and others in need of employment.

These provisions are key elements of the Democratic House Jobs and Economic Growth package that will create more than 1 million jobs this year without adding one penny to the deficit.

Democrats know that by putting money in the hands of working Americans and by keeping our fiscal house in order can we create jobs and build a strong economy.

IRAQ AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was in the grocery checkout line buying some Motrin for my ailing 8-year-old daughter late this Saturday night; and the woman next to me, seeing me wearing something of a Republican T-shirt on the weekend but not recognizing me as a Congressman, said, "I guess your President is in some hot water over weapons of mass destruction." And that seems to be what many on the other side of the aisle and many in the national debate would like to say about the President, that somehow this administration either directly or indirectly intentionally or unintentionally exaggerated the threat of weapons of mass destruction and the WMD program of the Nation of Iraq during the months and weeks leading up to Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is an extraordinary assertion, and as I went on to describe there in the checkout line last Saturday night and rise today to describe, it is patently untenable and ignores the real and demonstrable history of the nation of Iraq and the region.

First, a lesson in history. We go back to 1981 when Israel was forced to bomb Saddam Hussein's nuclear reactor at Osirak. In fact, the United Nations established at that time that Iraq had begun a nuclear weapons program and, in their words, chemical and biological weapons capability systems. In fact, in the immediate aftermath of the last

Persian Gulf War, Saddam Hussein and his regime as a part of the cease fire agreement acknowledged extensive biological and chemical weapons programs; and I cite now from UNSCOM's sources, the U.N. agency responsible for overseeing the cease fire of Iraq, that Iraq itself acknowledged 10,000 nerve gas warheads, 1,500 chemical weapons, and 412 tons of chemical weapons agents.

Last week before the Committee on International Relations, John Bolton, the Under Secretary for Arms Control at the U.S. State Department testified before us; and I asked him very specifically, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the assessment of the WMD program in Iraq changed significantly from the Clinton administration to the Bush administration. He hesitated and then very carefully said it had not changed in any significant way and that in many respects the Clinton administration assessed the WMD program in Iraq precisely the same as the Bush administration did. Citing those hundreds of tons of chemical and biological agents that Iraq admitted it had in 1991, Under Secretary of State John Bolton said, "Both administrations said these materials were unaccounted for."

In fact, when President Clinton bombed Iraq in 1998 after they expelled our weapons inspectors, he justified the bombing by saying "it was necessary to attack Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological programs and its capacity to threaten its neighbors." So said President Bill Clinton. So those who would say that in the 5 years leading up from the time Iraq expelled weapons inspectors to the time of Operation Iraqi Freedom that somehow, even though he refused to admit it, Saddam Hussein willingly and privately destroyed his enormous cache of weapons of mass destruction, ignore common sense, ignore history, the truth is, Mr. Speaker, we would have to believe the worst of George W. Bush and the best of Saddam Hussein to believe that there was not an extraordinary program of biological, chemical and even a nascent program for nuclear weapons being developed in the nation of Iraq and the capital of Baghdad.

Facts are stubborn things, and reciting those facts that Iraq admitted to in 1991 and establishing a decade-long pattern of deception and denial confirms, as our Iraqi survey group continues to scour that country for further evidence of a WMD program, I remain confident, as the President said yesterday, that we will not only continue to find evidence of a program, the mobile labs, the biological and chemical suits and the syringes that were found with antidotes for chemical deployments, but the day will come in the very near future, I am confident, that U.S. and coalition forces will find the elusive evidence of a program of weapons of mass destruction.